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16. AN UNUSUAL NEST-SITE OF SPOTTED DOVE *STREPTOPELIA CHINENSIS* (SCOPOLI)

While surveying the hillock at Thondebhavi, about 83 km north of Bangalore, on 1 September 1990, (see also Ali 1942, *JBNHS* 43: 325–326), we came across an unusual nest-site of spotted dove *Streptopelia chinensis*. The nest was placed on the ground amidst a clump of lemon grass *Cymbopogon schoenanthus* about 10 m from the foothill. The scrape-nest was lined with rootlets.

According to the HANDBOOK OF THE BIRDS OF INDIA AND PAKISTAN, (Ali, S. and Ripley, S.D. 1983) spotted doves are known to nest only in vegetation, well above the ground. The site of the nest is of

interest as it does not conform with earlier observations.

The boulder-strewn hillock, Arasalubande, (13°30' N, 77°30' E, 892 m above msl), where the nest was found was totally denuded, and not even a single tree or a dense bush was seen within about 200 m radius.

S. SUBRAMANYA
 S. KARTHIKEYAN
 J.N. PRASAD
 T.S. SRINIVASA
 B. ARUN

February 8, 1991

17. OCCURRENCE OF WRYNECK *JYNX TORQUILLA* LINN.

The HANDBOOK OF THE BIRDS OF INDIA AND PAKISTAN (Ali, S. and Ripley, S.D. 1987) describes the winter distribution range of the wryneck *Jynx torquilla* as Maharashtra and western central province.

However, the species was sighted in our garden at Durg, Madhya Pradesh, first on 28 October 1990, subsequently daily between 9 and 12 November and later on 13 and 15 December 1990 and 7 February 1991. Repeated sightings of the species

during the winter months suggest that it spends its winter in the area, and was not in transit.

A specimen taken from Charmae Sambalpur, Orissa (about 250 km further east) by N. Majumdar of ZSI (*JBNHS* 76: 162) is the other instance of the occurrence of the species outside the earlier known range.

February 13, 1991

A.M.K. BHAROS

18. SOUTHERN GOLDENBACKED WOODPECKER *DINOPIUM BENGHALENSE* FEEDING ON THE NECTAR OF BANANA TREE *MUSA PARADISIACA*

On 2 August 1990 at 0820 hrs, I saw a goldenbacked woodpecker *Dinopium benghalense* perching and feeding on the spathe of a banana tree *Musa paradisiaca* in my garden at Vedharanyam, Thanjavur district, Tamil Nadu. The banana tree had a few bunches of unripe fruits and flowers.

The bird was perched on the tip of the spathe and was probing with its beak into the free perianth (inner perianth) of flowers and drinking the nectar. Changing its perch frequently, the bird made a full round of the spathe and attended to several flowers. After about 7 minutes the bird flew away. The

next day also at about 0615 hrs I noticed a woodpecker feeding on nectar from the same tree.

Ali and Ripley (HANDBOOK OF THE BIRDS OF INDIA AND PAKISTAN, 1983) recorded insects, larvae, ants, centipede, spider, fruits, berries and flower nectar of *Erythrina*, *Salmalia*, *Acrocarpus* and *Grevillea* as the food items of this woodpecker. Now the nectar of banana tree should also be included in the list of food items.

August 20, 1990

P. BALASUBRAMANIAN